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S E C R E T DJIBOUTI 000710

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR DS/IP, DS/ITA, S/CT, INL

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SUBJECT: GOVERNMENT OF DJIBOUTI RAISES THREAT LEVEL IN  
RESPONSE TO LONDON AND EGYPTIAN BOMBINGS

Classified By: CLASSIFIED BY TDY RSO JEFFREY PURSELL REASON: 1.5 (B) (G)

1. (S) DURING A MEETING JULY 26 AT NATIONAL SECURITY SERVICES (NSS) HEADQUARTERS, THE DIRECTOR OF NSS, HASSAN SAID, AND THE ASSISTANT DIRECTOR ABDILLAH MOHAMED ABDILLAH, ADVISED TDY RSO, FSNI, AND NCIS FORCE PROTECTION OFFICER THAT NATIONAL SECURITY HAS RAISED THE THREAT LEVEL OF DJIBOUTI TO A HIGHER CATEGORY. HE COMPARED IT TO GOING FROM YELLOW TO ORANGE IN THE US COLOR CODED SYSTEM. REASONS GIVEN FOR THE INCREASE WERE THE LONDON AND EGYPTIAN BOMBINGS.

2. (S) THE DIRECTOR STATED THAT HE WAS UNAWARE OF A SPECIFIC THREAT BUT THAT HE RAISED THE LEVEL SOLELY AS A PRECAUTION. AS A RESULT, CHECKPOINTS MANNED BY POLICE DURING THE NIGHT HOURS HAVE BEEN INITIATED AT SIX LOCATIONS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. VEHICLES AND PEDESTRIANS ARE BEING STOPPED AND CHECKED AT RANDOM. DIRECTOR ALSO MENTIONED THAT HE RECENTLY MADE AN UNANNOUNCED LATE NIGHT TOUR OF SEVERAL KEY FACILITIES HE CONSIDERED TO BE HIGH RISK. AMONG THOSE FACILITIES ARE THE US EMBASSY, AIRPORT, PORT, AND SHERATON HOTEL. BASED ON HIS EMBASSY VISIT, HE HAS ASSIGNED ADDITIONAL POLICE OFFICERS TO THE NIGHT SHIFTS AND TO THE POLICE POSTS AT THE REAR OF THE COMPOUND PERIMETER. A MOBILE PATROL MANNED BY POLICE WILL ALSO BE POSITIONED ON THE ROAD THAT FRONTS THE EMBASSY. HE ASKED IF THE EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE GASOLINE FOR THE VEHICLE.

3. (S) THE DIRECTOR DESCRIBED SECURITY AT THE DJIBOUTI'S INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AS GOOD BUT SAID MUCH WORK NEEDED TO BE DONE AT THE PORT. NCIS AGENT NOTED THAT THE PORT SECURITY OFFICER HAS RECENTLY DEPARTED DJIBOUTI AND THE POSITION IS VACANT. LASTLY, THE DIRECTOR ASKED THE RSO TO MEET WITH SHERATON HOTEL PERSONNEL TO STRONGLY ENCOURAGE HOTEL MANAGEMENT TO INCREASE BOTH THE NUMBER OF LOCAL GUARD POSITIONS AND TO CONDUCT PACKAGE AND METAL DETECTOR CHECKS OF PEOPLE ENTERING THE HOTEL.

4. (S) ALSO DISCUSSED DURING THE MEETING WAS THE STATUS OF THE TERRORIST INTERDICTION PROGRAM (TIP) AND THE USG FUNDED SECURITY IMPROVEMENTS AT THE AIRPORT. RSO ADVISED THAT PHASE 1 OF TIP IS NEARLY COMPLETED BUT STILL LACKS CONNECTIVITY BETWEEN THE VARIOUS STATIONS AT THE AIRPORT, PORT, POLICE, NATIONAL SECURITY AND THE EMBASSY. THE DIRECTOR STATED HIS OFFICE HAD ALREADY CONTACTED DJIBOUTI TELECOMMUNICATIONS TO EXPEDITE THE APPROVAL. IN RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PHYSICAL IMPROVEMENTS TO THE ARRIVAL AND IMMIGRATION AREAS OF THE AIRPORT, THE DIRECTOR EXPRESSED HIS APPRECIATION FOR USG ASSISTANCE. RSO MENTIONED THAT A SUSPICIOUS VEHICLE HAD BEEN REPORTED BY AN EMBASSY DEPENDENT OUTSIDE HER HOME. INITIAL INVESTIGATION BY RSO INDICATED THAT THE INCIDENT DID NOT APPEAR THREATENING BUT THAT POLICE TO DATE HAVE NOT LOCATED THE VEHICLE. NATIONAL SECURITY WILL NOW HANDLE THE INVESTIGATION BASED ON A DESCRIPTION OF THE VEHICLE AND LICENSE NUMBER WE PROVIDED. REGARDS  
RAGSDALE